



Active for Justice

A VOICE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND NONVIOLENCE

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PIKES PEAK JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION

Intellectual Property and Bio-diversity: Moving Beyond Monsanto

Loring Wirbel

Monsanto Corp. deservedly has garnered far more criticism since focusing on "life sciences" than it ever did as a diversified chemicals and weapons components manufacturer. Recent articles in *The Nation*, *Z*, *Multinational Monitor*, and *Brill's Content*, as well as a dedicated issue of *The Ecologist* that was suppressed by its printer, all point to a corporation that is ruthless in its attacks on farmers, environmentalists, and journalists.

Monsanto wants to halt all critiques of bovine growth hormone (rBGH), and stop consumers from knowing when the rBGH chemical is used in their milk. Monsanto wants to restrict all farmers to Roundup pesticides and Roundup-Ready seeds, and is prosecuting farmers who try to save seed stocks from one year to the next. And Monsanto is attacking any journalist that tries to report objectively and fairly on its actions.

But activists would be misguided to focus solely on this one company as the source of all problems in genetic modification, plant patenting, and biodiversity. Monsanto is only the most obvious target in a campaign that links the federal government to several major seed and life-science conglomerates, such as Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland.

None of this is meant to excuse or minimize Monsanto's role as the baddest of the bad. In addition to promoting the rBGH bovine hormone known as PROSILAC, Monsanto has tried to entrap farmers through promotion of Roundup Ready Soybean, or RRS. The genetically-modified soybean not only could lead to weakening the soy gene pool, it could mix with wild species to create new kinds of "genetic pollution," and could represent a new vector for crop diseases to enter large-scale soybean farms. Not only does RRS enslave the farmer to use of the Roundup pesticide, but farmers now must pay a \$5 "technology fee" per 50-pound bag of RRS, and must agree not to save seeds from season to season. In the fall of 1998, Monsanto began prosecuting farmers who tried to save seeds. As in the case of rBGH, Monsanto also has tried to prevent food products using RRS from being labeled as such.

Monsanto's actions against the press have been despicable, as well. Fox TV's Channel 13 in Tampa Bay, owned directly by Fox Broadcasting, fired journalists Steve Wilson and Jane Akre in December 1997 for refusing to alter a report on rBGH to make it more friendly to Monsanto. Fox 13 management already had approved the segment, but were ordered to change it after Fox News president Roger Ailes received threatening letters from Monsanto.

In May 1998, Monsanto managed to get a critical book on agro-technology by Mark Lappe and Britt Bailey, *Against the Grain*, killed by its printer, Vital Health.

Luckily, Common Courage Press agreed to bring it out despite legal threats. Then, in September, Monsanto pressured the British printer of *The Ecologist* magazine to halt printing on an anti-Monsanto special issue, though the issue eventually was brought out by another printer. Certainly, Monsanto sets new standards of corporate bullying, but its actions are keeping well within the structure of what is par for the U.S. course.

When the U.S. goes on the attack in the UN, and tries to prevent other nations from passing consumer-awareness laws for "GMOs" (genetically modified organisms); or when the federal government tries to yank away intellectual property rights from indigenous peoples with traditional uses of medicinal plants, in favor of granting protein synthesis rights solely to large pharmaceutical companies, we have an instant issue that can unite ecologists, advocates for biodiversity, critics of genetic modification, and advocates for more open use of intellectual property laws.

Aligned against the naturalist activists, however, is an agribusiness and pharmaceutical community with close ties to the Democratic Party, a fact that tends to quell criticism of the new life-sciences thuggery from many quarters. Kirkpatrick Sale charged in a recent *Nation* article that some organizations like The Nature Conservancy and Rocky Mountain Institute are loath to criticize the agribusiness giants because of grant ties to companies like Monsanto. And of course, the fact that National Public Radio carries constant spots for "ADM - supermarket to the world," might possibly influence the way NPR covers Archer Daniels Midland influence-peddling scandals.

But let's get real. Neither payoffs to buy silence nor threats to stop investigative journalism are the main factors leading to the full support given to agribusiness by both major parties. The real issue is that the Republicans and Democrats both believe in the superior intellectual property rights of the corporation over the individual.

The U.S. was fully willing to torpedo the Biosafety Protocol talks in Cartagena, Colombia on Feb. 23, because it did not want to give importing nations the right to restrict sales of GMOs. This has caused quite a furor, not only in Europe, where hatred of Monsanto is widespread, but also in Japan, where consumers want more information about genetically-altered plants, animals, and hormones—check out the front page of the March 14 *Denver Post* to see how critical this has become.

The Clinton administration does not give a damn about consumer concern. The State Department demanded at the Cartagena talks that World Trade Organization rules take precedence over the Biosafety Protocol, a factor that led to the talks' demise. The government has not ratified the Rio 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, for fear that preservation of species diversity would hurt corporate rights. And of course, this fits in with other actions such as the ruling of the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals, which

please see "Monsanto" on page 4/5

WAY OF THE CROSS/WAY OF JUSTICE APRIL 2, 1999



MEET AT 12 NOON IN ACACIA PARK

sponsored by the Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission

Jesus dies: then and now

Barbara Huber

The annual Way of the Cross/Way of Justice recalls and celebrates the suffering, crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus 2,000 years ago as well as the suffering, "crucifixion" and death of all the sons and daughters of God, who, like Jesus, live among us now.

Crucifixion was a deterrence strategy in the Roman policy for maintaining their world dominance and thus protecting the Roman way of life. The great "Pax Romana" was secured by deterrence: first with the threat of crucifixion, then with the annihilation of cities. The Jews understood this well. Caiaphas, the high priest, appointed by Rome, reminded his hesitant colleagues, "You don't

seem to have grasped the situation at all. You fail to see that it is better for one man to die for the people, than for the whole nation to be destroyed." John 11: 49-50.

James Douglass, in his book *The Nonviolent Coming of God*, remarks that "Rome acted deliberately, calculating the political impact of its violence. A rebel's body nailed to a cross, was a lesson in imperial politics. Rome regarded crucifixion as a discriminate deterrence, a prudent public notice that legions stood waiting behind the cross, prepared to level cities if a rebellion continued." 1

Douglas finds much evidence that US military theorists have studied the Roman security system. Edward N. please see "Jesus dies" on page 7

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AROUND THE WORLD

Mexico: to have and have not

Tom Moore and Mark Cohen

The Wall Street Journal of 3/8/99 offers an interesting look at the Mexican economy: "The Mexican economy grew 4.8% last year adding 100,000 new manufacturing jobs." (a fraction of the population growth, *ed.*) And US/Mexican trade has gone from \$77 billion to \$156 billion/year since 1993 and the passage of NAFTA.

"Yet for most Mexicans these statistics offer little solace...most consumers are worse off today than they were a decade ago." Since 1994 consumers have suffered a staggering 39% drop in purchasing power. Just since 1997, the number of people living in extreme poverty (earning less than \$2/day) has grown by 4 million, twice the population growth. According to the UN development Program one in seven Mexicans lived in dire poverty before the crisis, two years later one in five do. Almost 2/3 of Mexicans live in moderate poverty, earning less than \$3 a day.

"Yet Mexico's economy enjoys a stellar reputation...Sometimes macro-economic growth is achieved at the cost of mass hardship..."

Suffice it to say *De Todo Un Poco* thinks there is a lot wrong with this picture. The measuring sticks of economic well being are those of investors (speculators) and the well-to-do, and do not reflect the situation of most people living in the society.

The article goes on to point out what advantages Mexico has had to help things go so well: NAFTA, and a balanced budget brought about by a "centralized one-party state."

Meanwhile (an example of "one party" maintaining control, *ed.*) The Mexican government has not implemented the San Andres Accords which they signed several years ago. The accords established the recognition of cultural and political rights for the indigenous peoples of Mexico. Even though the government agreed to the Accords by signing them, it continues to do nothing.

It would lose its control and manipulation of indigenous peoples through the PRI (the one party), the caciques (local political bosses), big business and large landowners, all of whom have been exploiting the indigenous and their land for centuries. By failing to implement the accords, the government has put in danger the peace process once again, increasing military presence and the abuse of indigenous communities.

In Chiapas, over the last 10 months joint military-police operations, ordered by the state government in order to "dismantle" autonomous municipalities living under alternative governmental structures, have consistently involved mass arrests as well as jailings. Since March 1998, the number of political prisoners being held in the maximum-security state prison of Cerro Hueco and in other prisons in Chiapas and Tabasco has nearly tripled.

The imprisonment of indigenous leaders is one of the many strategies of low intensity warfare that the Mexican Government has been using to weaken the EZLN support bases since the uprising in 1994.

Editor Mark Cohen's latest *Building Bridges* reports: In Jalisco Mexico more than a dozen young men were kidnapped and tortured. Salvador Jimenez Lopez died, drowning in his own blood when his tongue was cut out. The group responsible for these and other atrocities are allegedly members of the Mexican Army Airborne special forces Groups (GAFE) - a paramilitary unit trained by US Special Forces. US Tax dollars at work in Chiapas!

The above information has been shared with us by Mark Cohen in his wonderful bi-monthly newsletter Building Bridges: Progressive Politics Network News and Tom Moore and his great DeTodo Un Poco, a bulletin focusing on events in Central America and the Caribbean and the US influence in the region.

Sanctions: the silent killer

J. Ribachonik and B. Huber

Mike Bremer came to town and sparked new interest (or should we say outrage) around the Iraqi sanctions issue. About 150 gathered at the First Congregational Church for PJP's annual speaker's forum to get first-hand information about the situation in Iraq. Bremer, of Voices in the Wilderness, has been to Iraq with groups of US citizens bringing contra-band supplies, (i.e. medicine) twice and as this is being written is enroute to join yet another group already there.

These activities, organized by several alternative groups around the country—Voices in the Wilderness out of Chicago, Jubilee Partners from Georgia, US Fellowship of Reconciliation from New York, among others—is not without jeopardy. Voices recently was informed that they are to pay \$163,000 in fines and some activists are facing considerable jail time. The moral imperative, however, outweighs the threats.

Much of what Bremer shared with us we had read in articles he had published previously, but the gripping part was the man himself and the details, some in his talk, some in later conversations (as we shared brunch the following morning)—also asides which cleared up a lot of confusion our media is fostering.

Bremer is a gentle man who has, over the years, "paid his dues" as a non-violent activist. One gets the impression that he went to Iraq as much to learn

from the people he met as to help them with what he could bring to fill their lack. With an open mind he listened to a variety of folks—professionals, who were educated in the United States, now reduced to poverty; a Finnish UN Weapons inspector who spoke "off the record" of the excellent cooperation of the Iraqis that the inspectors have experienced; an engineer reduced to being a chauffeur who longed to get back to building bridges; someone with a cousin in Detroit, and another with a funny story about a bar in New Orleans; an angry father standing helplessly by his son who lay dying.

And the details—used to create an impression by our media—the cleaned up brand new buildings (or palaces, if you will), in Baghdad; the "stock piles of medicine" in warehouses, the failure of the Iraqis to "cooperate with UN weapons inspections"; the billions being paid to Iraq for their oil to be used for humanitarian purposes, etc.

Though there is no doubt that Saddam is a ruthless dictator, he is shrewd and none of the above, (as presented to us in our press) make any sense. That's because they are only a little part of the truth used to lead us to an untrue conclusion.

The money—lots of money, right? Wrong! In the best of times Iraq's annual budget was \$30 billion which provided, among other things, universal health care and education. Seventy percent of Iraq's needs are met through imports and

The Pentagon announced that it would move 380 members of the Special Operations Command (SOC) South to Puerto Rico in June, according to the *Fellowship for Reconciliation*. The troops train Latin American militaries, including Colombian soldiers. "SOC South is a kind of off-shore School of the Americas," said FOR executive director John Dear SJ.

copied from Sojourner, March/April 1999

Where to Send Your Protests Against the UN/US Sanctions on Iraq

Permanent UN Security Council Members:

H.E. Ambassador Qin Huasun
Permanent Mission of China to the UN
155 W. 66th St.
New York, NY 10023
phone: 212/870-0313 fax: 212/870-0333

H.E. Mr. Alain Dejammet, Permanent Mission of France to the UN
245 E. 47th St, 44th Floor
New York, NY 10017
phone: 212/308-5700 fax: 212/421-6889

Mr. Sergey Z. Lavrov, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the UN
136 E. 67th St.
New York, NY 11021
phone: 212/861-4900 fax: 212/628-0252

H.E. Sir John Weston, Permanent Mission of the UK to the UN
885 2nd Ave
New York, NY 10017
phone: 212/745-9334 fax: 212/745-9316

H.E. Richard Holbrooke, Permanent Mission of the U.S. to the UN
799 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017
phone: 212/415-4404 fax: 212/415-4443

Others:

H.E. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the UN Headquarters
Room S-3800
New York, NY 10017

H.E. Richard Butler, Chairman UN Special Commission on Iraq
United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

H.E. Mr. Nizar Hamdoun Permanent Mission of Iraq to the UN
14 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10021

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20500
phone: 202/456-1414 fax: 202/456-2461
White House Comment Line: 202/456-1111 (1-1-0)
e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

please see "Protest list" on page 8

It's as simple as ABC: Anti-Biotics for Children of Iraq

Four thousand to 5,000 children are dying unnecessarily every month due to the impact of sanctions. We are in the process of destroying an entire society. It is as simple and terrifying as that. It is illegal and immoral.

Please send your check to help purchase medical supplies for the children of Iraq.

Write checks to:
Pikes Peak Justice & Peace Commission (ABC)

currently the Iraqi *dinar* is worthless.

Yet the current income from their restricted sale of oil amounts to \$10 billion dollars. The problem is, it is not given to Iraq, but rather to a UN oversight group located in Paris. This group takes from the total, 30% to Kuwait in reparations (remember Kuwait was and is one of the richest nations in the Arab world); 10 to 15% to the UN to pay for the inspections, policing, etc. and 10 to 12% for human relief in Kurdistan. The 40-50% left over equals 25 cents a day per capita.

This remainder is used to buy the things Iraq requests as needed for their well being and restoration. But these requests, of course must be "approved by the UN group in Paris who must be scrupulous in not purchasing anything for Iraq that could have a dual purpose (one of which would be military). Thus, supplies to restore the water purification plants, the delivery of electricity, ambulances, parts for vehicles, all could have a dual use, no? So that shopping list gets axed.

As for the brand new buildings—read: palaces—that have been built. They are indeed being built of the material at hand but they are empty shells awaiting a better day. For now they have no plumbing or electricity!

And the "hoarded" medicines? They are stored and distributed on a schedule to guarantee that they will last for the duration—an understandable administrative decision.

At this point the UN Security council is holding the Iraqis' fate in their hands. France, Russia and China would

vote to end the sanctions. The US and our acolyte, the UK would vote to continue, to what end? Genocide?

The Colorado Springs community is ruminating about our response to this crying injustice. A meeting to strategize was announced at the Forum for March 20. That meeting generated a good beginning strategies for consciousness raising in this community. The plans agreed upon are:

- The public demonstration against the sanctions at Peterson Field on Saturday, March 27 was promoted.
- Weekly Thursday noon vigils at the Post Office will continue.
- A campaign to raise money to buy medicine to send to Iraq will be launched in April with a Mary Lynn Sheetz poster. Jen Finn has been in touch with Kathy Kelle at Voices in the Wilderness, for clear directions as to what medicines, etc. as well as some great suggestions for using this project to dramatize the wrong-headedness of US policy regarding Iraq.
- A campaign to engage the faith community in the Springs will begin immediately as several folks volunteered to contact key Church leaders.
- A follow-up meeting will be at the Rectory Community Room, 845 N. Spruce St. at 9 am on Saturday, April 17.
- There will be an information table on the Sanctions at Chapel Hills Mall on Saturday, April 17 beginning at 2 pm.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Jennifer Ribchonak and Barbara Huber are PJP staff

AND BACK AGAIN

Prison Moratorium Bill Update

Christie Donner

This session, Senator Dorothy Rupert (D-Boulder) and State representative Penfield Tate (D-North Central Denver) co-sponsored a bill that proposed placing a state-wide moratorium on prison construction for three years. The bill would also create a legislative task force which would, among other things, evaluate current criminal sentencing policies, particularly drug sentences, and the impact current practices have had on people of color, people with mental illness, and children of people incarcerated. This radical legislation is the first ever to be introduced to a legislative body in the United States and has been described as "cutting edge."

On Monday, February 1, 1999, the Senate Judiciary Committee heard the Prison Moratorium Bill (SB 99-95). Compelling and moving testimony was provided by Dr. Lee Bernstein (Professor of American Studies, CU-Boulder), Dr. Joanne Belknap (Professor of Women's Studies, CU-Boulder), Ed Sbarbaro (Professor of Sociology at Colorado College, Colorado Springs), Diane Tramutola-Lawson (Colorado CURE), Phil Cherner, Esq. (Vice President of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar Association), Sr. Bea Snyder (Colorado Springs jail chaplain), Ann Richards (Women's Empowerment Program, Denver), Nancy Tucker (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Colorado Chapter), Jennifer Finn (Director, Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission),

and Christie Donner (Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center).

By a turn of fate, one conservative senator had to leave prior to hearing testimony on the bill. Sensing that with his absence, the task force aspect of the bill might have a chance to pass the committee, Senator Rupert quickly introduced an amendment to withdraw the moratorium aspect of the bill and proceed only on the task force. Although it was a difficult decision, Senator Rupert's strategy paid off. By a 3-2 vote, the bill was passed out of committee and was sent to appropriations. It is anticipated that the proposal for a task force will not be approved by the whole senate.

The Prisoner Rights Project would like to acknowledge the tremendous combined effort that went into putting together the factual data sheets in support of the moratorium bill, by Craig Hines and Allison, Sue Noe, Meghan Gill, Robyn Autry, Anne O'Brien, Rick Bickhart, Van Taylor, and Phil Cherner. Also, many thanks to the witnesses who patiently waited for hours to testify.

Regardless of the ultimate fate of the Prison Moratorium Bill, the Prisoner Rights Project will continue its effort to seek fairness and justice within the criminal judicial system and a reversal of the trend of mass incarceration. For more information on how you can be involved, please contact Christie at 303-444-6981 or cdonner@juno.com

Christie Donner is project coordinator for the Prisoners' Rights Project

CPIS strengthens global links

Bill Sulzman

Donna Johnson and Bill Sulzman, of Colorado Springs' Citizens for Peace in Space (CPIS) took part in two conferences in Europe, March 2 to 12, which dealt with military/space issues. The meeting of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space was held in Darmstadt, Germany, March 3 to 7. Among the 60 attendees were activists from Russia, Rumania, Ukraine and Uzbekistan who joined the core groups from Germany, England and the United States. German experts addressed space law, space nuclear power, the ABM treaty, European space satellites, the ethics of space exploration, solar power in space, the political aspects of the German space program, etc. The latter subject was highlighted by the fact that the European Space Agency (Headquartered in Darmstadt) canceled the participation of three of their scientists just as the conference was about to begin. Word was that NASA had requested that they pull-out fearing that attendees would ask too many critical questions about nuclear powered space missions.

The gathering concluded with a business meeting of the Global Network(GN). CPIS is committed to continue working with members of the GN while not formally joining the newly incorporated organization with an international board of directors based in Florida. Future plans include a June 12 international protest of the flyby of Cassini, a plutonium powered space probe which is set for August 18. The next Global Network meeting will be in Washington DC the weekend of April 23, 2000.

March 9 to 11 took Johnson and Sulzman to Geneva where they participated in a conference on the militarization of space sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). About 18 or 20 dele-

Father Roy Bourgeois/School of the Americas Watch

Tom Noonan

Roy Bourgeois is working diligently to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, GA. On March 6th, at 7 pm, this Maryknoll priest spoke to an audience of over a hundred people in the undercroft of St. Mary's Cathedral. He had come to the Springs at the invitation of the Catholic Diocese of Colorado Springs. In promoting this talk they enlisted an impressive list of co-sponsors, including the Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission.

Originally, the school opened in Panama in 1946 and moved to Ft. Benning in 1984. Over the years, the school has trained military personnel in counterinsurgency from eighteen Latin American countries. Typically, in practical terms, counterinsurgency has meant opposing people working with the poor to improve their abysmal living conditions, as this work disturbs the status quo. Graduates of the school include several military dictators, most notable perhaps is Manuel Noriega. Other graduates include those responsible for the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador. Violent and atrocious acts attributed to the graduates of the school are too numerous to list.

So, how is Bourgeois working non-violently to close this school? He sees his work as a moral issue based on a biblical calling to peacemaking. Previously, he worked in the slums outside La Paz, Bolivia and recognized the desperate need for adequate food and medicine along with just wages for workers to support their children. Rather than accept poverty as God's will, he believes in the hope of liberation theology. Upon returning to the United States, he realized the importance of work at home and founded Casa Romero at Ft. Benning to close the School of the Americas.

His work has begun to bear fruit. Initially, he had only a handful of supporters, but numbers devoted to the cause of closing the school have steadily increased. This coming November he expects 10,000 people to demonstrate at the gates of Ft. Benning, and 5,000 people to cross the line into the post in

gates to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament which meets in Geneva attended our conference and listened to the presentations made by various advocacy groups. Both Johnson and Sulzman were able to address the delegates from their perspective: Colorado Springs, home of the US Space Command.

They also spent about two hours in dialogue with the Deputy US delegate, Neil Waldorf. He, of course, defended American policy at every turn. The US is blocking any attempt to update the Outer Space Treaty and is also opposed to any attempt to stop nuclear weapons production by limiting fissile (bomb grade) nuclear material.

Again our CPIS delegates were able to make new contacts with people from around the world who want to halt and reverse the arms race in space. They returned with a renewed hope in citizen action coupled with a realization of the many obstacles that remain in our path.

CPIS sponsored a March 27 rally at Peterson AFB which called for an end to the bombing and sanctions against Iraq. There will be a demonstration at the annual Space Symposium at the Broadmoor Hotel to be held in early April. Contact CPIS at 389-0644 for details.

PPJP member, Bill Sulzman, is the founder and current director of Citizens for Peace in Space.

protest of the school. In addition, former Rep. Joseph Kennedy submitted a bill to Congress calling for the closing of the school, and a similar Senate bill is being proposed.

His efforts haven't been easy. In the struggle, he has spent time in jail, sometimes in solitary confinement. Yet, his faith in God and the example of other nonviolent leaders like Dorothy Day keeps him hopeful. Most importantly, his sense of humor is still intact. Towards the end of the evening, after discussing other issues of justice and peace regarding the sanctions against Iraq, sweatshops around the world, etc., he said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, they will never be unemployed." Thank you Fr. Roy Bourgeois for sharing your message of hope.

Tom Noonan is a board member of the Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission.

Handy Dandy: superbly performed

Lee Fischer

I was looking forward to a rare Saturday night at home. Then came KCME's 5:30 Cultural Voice of Colorado Springs with a review of "Handy Dandy," which had opened the previous night. I have never heard such an enthusiastic review of a play, its author and its cast! I was galvanized to get on down to All Souls Unitarian Church right then and there.

I was not disappointed. William Gibson has written a little gem: a two person, two act play about all that really matters in a lifetime—gently unfolding with humor, pain, fear and love. The program explained that "Handy Dandy" first came out as readers theater and was performed by some of the biggest stars from Broadway and Hollywood. No doubt it was done well, but nobody could have brought it to life better than Mary Sprunger-Froese and Richard Buchanan did Saturday night. They were Molly and Henry.

The audience—in laughter and tears—was in the palm of their hands the entire time. Scene changes were covered by Lyn Boudreau's seamless performance of her original music. First Strike troupe member, Kristina Hall was an "off-stage voice." So, kudos to guest director Eve Tilley and to the First Strike Theatre!

All this happened under unusual circumstances. The play was to be presented in the All Souls' sanctuary and had been blocked and lighted for that stage. Wednesday, one day before the dress rehearsal and two days before opening night, ceiling tiles in the sanctuary came crashing down and the room was declared unsafe! A remarkable crew, in the spirit of "the show must go on!" recreated everything in the gathering area outside the sanctuary. So, kudos to Brandi Maez, Alan Stockman, Patrick Hamilton, Whitney Hampson and Peter Sprunger-Froese, the other stars of that show.

If you had the misfortune of missing "Handy Dandy," it will play in Denver on Saturday, April 24. See the details in Peace Planner, page 8.

Lee Fischer is a lover of good theater.

A dialogue on the death penalty

Jennifer Finn

With two capital cases being tried currently in Colorado Springs, the death penalty and the ethical, political and moral struggles that go along with it, are at the forefront once again. Over 75% of US citizens are in favor of capital punishment for reasons such as deterrence from crime and presumed cost effectiveness. Those who are in opposition argue that statistically it is not a deterrent and is far more expensive than life imprisonment. In addition to these arguments, the opposition argues that the death penalty is not implemented fairly and justly. And fundamentally, killing people does not teach that killing people is wrong.

On April 6th at 8 pm at the Colorado College Gates Common Room, in Palmer Hall, criminal defense attorney, David Lane and local district attorney Jeannie Smith will be dialoguing on capital punishment. David Lane has been representing capital cases throughout the nation for many years. Lane is a very dynamic speaker and teaches persuasive tactics to those in opposition to the death penalty. Jeannie Smith, death penalty advocate, will speak about the importance of keeping the death penalty as an option for violent offenders. Please join us for this informal discussion on this controversial and current issue.

Jennifer Finn, Director of the Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission, is the Commission's liaison with the state and national projects around abolition of the death penalty and the reform/closing of prisons.

Monsanto

continued from page 1
told the state of Vermont it could not label milk produced from cows using the Monsanto PROSILAC hormone, because such labeling would hurt the free speech of Monsanto.

Expect the same behavior as the U.S. takes on the UN's World Health Organization over a new effort to create exceptions in intellectual property and patent laws that would preserve both indigenous tribes' rights to previous use of medicinal plants, and the needs of patients with extreme health needs to gain access to generic drugs free of excessive patent restraints. The White House position has been written, virtually word for word, by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers' Association, who insist that in the new world of patenting gene sequences, the original users of native plants have no rights whatsoever, at least when multinational corporate rights enter the picture. The State Department has told WHO it will pull the same number it did in Cartagena, in other words, trash the treaty to preserve corporate rights.

When it comes to intellectual property, the government position on seeds and plant patents is remarkably similar to its position on working with the media industry on rights to songs and films. The Recording Industry Association of America is terrified of the spread of "MP3," a low-cost way of spreading

high-quality audio on the Internet. RIAA is insisting on a "secure digital watermark" concept that will make users pay a license fee every time they listen to a song or watch a film. Because MP3 already is in wide use, the RIAA has enlisted the help of the Justice Department to bust the purveyors of MP3 on the Internet.

The common thread here is the same, and stems from the late 19th century Supreme Court ruling that a corporation retains the rights of an individual. In the late 20th century bipartisan view that there is no higher state of human achievement than the corporation, Democrats and Republicans are fighting hard to insure that corporate rights trump individual rights at every turn.

The goal of agribusiness companies, drug companies, and music companies in the current patent and copyright battles is not merely to insure that they are paid a fee for every possible use of their intellectual property, but also that there is no possible alternative source for sustenance and culture than the large transnationals. Just as Sony and Warners want to make sure that you never go to an independent music producer for your entertainment, Monsanto wants to make sure that farmers have no choice but to turn to genetically-modified plants.

Since the U.S. government already serves as globocop on several foreign-policy fronts, it is no surprise that the government works on behalf of the transnationals to ram GMOs and patented plant genes down the throats of other

nations, whether their citizens want it or not.

What can we do as individuals? First and foremost, we can divorce ourselves from the sources of power. Grow food independently using natural methods and biodiverse seeds, shop in ways that encourage consumer awareness and reduce corporate power by any means necessary, and involve yourself in the type of projects discussed in this issue of Active for Justice, including seed banks and cooperatives.

The "MP3 rebels" on the Internet who have pledged to go to jail rather than bend to RIAA's interests, give us a model for what we can do on food and drug fronts. The obvious, easy thing to do is to make Monsanto a rogue name among young people and activists in the same way that labels like Nike, Gap, and Donna Karan have turned into shorthand representations of repression, rather than the trendy cachet they were only two years ago. But in demonizing the Monsantos, Cargills, and ADMs of the world, we also must realize that the corporate view of food and drug control is fully supported by the two major parties in all branches of government. We must stake an independent claim against corporate rights as a citizen action from below, expecting no help from the Congress or White House.

Writer and peace activist, Loring Wirbel, is the father of Abby Wirbel, one of the world's children for whom he struggles for a better world.



Farming Done Well

Rob Gordon

There are two spiritual dangers of not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.

Aldo Leopold

Getting to Know Your Farmer

It is dinner time. Do you know where your food came from? Safeway? King Sooper? California? Central America? Pueblo?

Members of Ryan and Betsy Morris' community-supported farm do. They know their food comes from the Country Roots Farm in Vineland, Colorado, just minutes east of Pueblo. They even know Ryan and Betsy personally. Many have even pitched in to help tend to the crops grown on the farm.

These "members" represent one way in which the Morris's market the vegetables grown on their twelve acre farm. As more people are becoming concerned with the negative health implications of factory-style farming, from genetically-altered seeds to erosion to excessive chemical fertilization, they are looking to take more responsibility for how they eat. They want to know how their food is grown and they want to know the people who grow it.

In southern Colorado, the Country Roots Farm serves such a conscientious clientele. Members pay an annual fee in exchange for a promise of a weekly supply of fresh vegetables. The promise is conditional because, with food production, there are no guarantees. The sharing of risk between farmer and members is part of the bargain.

The Morris family farm is part of a

growing movement amongst small farmers called community-supported agriculture (CSA). The goal of the movement is to educate people about how food is grown while developing and maintaining a relationship with the eater, without the intervention of the broker, distributor, or grocer.

Reluctant Revolutionary

If Ryan Morris is part of a movement, he does not want it known. He names as one of his intellectual mentors Edward Abbey's Hayduke from the Monkey Wrench Gang but does not want knowledge of his admiration of Hayduke "spread around."

Soft-spoken and unassuming, Morris is too humble to think of himself as either political or revolutionary. Yet, neither raised on a farm nor "educated" in agriculture, he left a comfortable position in the health care industry so that he could farm organically.

He gave up the nominal security of a regular paycheck for the virtual certainty of hail storms and insects. He gave up comfort for struggle, standard of living for quality of life. To top it off, he chose to do it all without help from the agribusiness industry. These choices make him a bit of a revolutionary whether he wants to admit it or not.

Ryan became a farmer because "he read too much," according to Betsy. Disenchanted with the rules, regulations and policies that prevented good caregiving, especially to the poor and aged, Ryan started to consume all the reading material he could find on farming. Finally, in 1994, he left his position as an occupational therapist and started his new career.

At first, Betsy was reluctant but now enjoys the work, though she still works

as an occupational therapist for 24-30 hours a week. The couple seems relaxed and happy on their farm. Betsy's proud assertion that they "never go hungry" is testimony to their clarity on what is essential in life.

Both Betsy and Ryan like the mix of solitude and community. Situated in an increasingly suburban area, they do not lack for neighbors or visitors. Member workdays and pick-up days keep people coming and going during the growing season.

Farm as Destination

One of the appeals of a CSA farm is the opportunity to visit the farm. Many people have fond memories of having spent time on their parent's or grandparent's farm. Visiting the Country Roots Farm to pick-up vegetables or fresh eggs can rekindle those memories.

Aside from the nostalgia, visiting the farm lets the consumer see first-hand how their food is grown. Large tanks of anhydrous ammonia are conspicuous in their absence. The Morris farm is a certified organic operation.

There are rarely bare fields at the Country Roots Farm. After crops are harvested a "cover crop," usually a grass such as rye, is planted to protect the soil from erosion. In addition to preventing erosion, rye provides feed for the laying hens. Moveable chicken coops allow the hens to free-range in a controlled fashion. Every few days the pens are moved to provide the hens with fresh green feed. What remains in the spring is incorporated into the soil as green manure for the next food crop.

The use of cover crops at the Country Roots Farm is just one piece of a larger system that assists in the maintenance of healthy soil. Organic farming is more than simply the avoidance of chemical pesticides and herbicides. For sure, this is the minimum required for official

The Therapeutic Garden

Patricia Fry

Renaldo guides his wheelchair over the planks laid between two rows of tomato plants. The 8-year-old selects just the right fruit and pops it into his mouth. With a juicy grin, he exclaims, "I grew this! I fed it and watered it, and it grew!"

Although there have been no major scientific studies to substantiate the benefits of therapeutic gardening for special needs children, numerous schools and other facilities are discovering that the "outdoor classroom" can help individuals with mental and physical impairments grow in independence, self-esteem and social skills. Simple adaptations such as raised beds or wheelchair ramps can enable some children to garden, and even the severely disabled who cannot tend plants can help plan and monitor a garden.

Maureen Oswald, a therapeutic recreation specialist at the Kluge Children's Rehabilitation Center in Charlottesville, Va., explains, "When kids find that they're doing something functional, they're more motivated to complete the task. When a patient transplants a flower, they have something to show for their therapy that day rather than just stretching their fingers."

In addition to the physical benefits that the children at Kluge gain from their gardening activities, they also feel pride in their accomplishments. "On community outings, they get in the van - wheelchairs and all take their Indian corn, cucumbers, and dried flowers for competition at the county fair," says Oswald.

At Cookeville High School in Tennessee, science teacher Kathleen Airhart sees her greenhouse project as an

certification, but it is only the tip of the iceberg of an array of practices that allow a farmer to be successful without chemical inputs.

Farming versus Agri-business

Farming today has fallen into disrepute. Most of what we call farms today are actually factories. And the work in which they are engaged is agri-business, not farming. An assembly-line mentality where productivity and efficiency are the guiding metrics prevails in today's large-scale factory farms. Animals are housed in unhealthy conditions and fed a regimen of antibiotics to keep them free from disease. Likewise, crops are grown in unhealthy soil and given a regimen of pesticides and herbicides to keep them alive.

Consumers complain about these conditions and blame the farmer, all the time forgetting that they, for the most part, keep on buying the products from these factories and demand that the prices be low.

Operations like the Country Roots Farm provide an alternative to the mass-produced, chemical- and drug-infused food of factory farms. CSA farms all over the country are inviting people to share the risk, participate in the work, join the fun and reap the healthy rewards of farming done well.

For more information on Country Roots Farm, contact Ryan or Betsy Morris at (719) 948-2206. Membership in their CSA program is open through the end of April.

Rob Gordon is a member of the Justice and Peace Commission and an aspiring farmer. He is leasing four acres in Fountain this summer for the growing of healthy food. If you are interested in being on his mailing list, or better yet, getting your hands dirty, call him at 389-0719.

"equalizer" for students stigmatized by behavioral problems and learning disabilities. One boy who had been dismissed from regular classes for continual episodes of fighting spent two years in a "behavior" class, coming out only to work with Airhart.

"He's moving out of the behavior class next year," she reports. "He'll be in the agriculture program and continue working in the greenhouse."

Gardening as therapy is also being used effectively at correctional institutions. A few years ago, Cathrine Sneed, a counselor with the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, began the Garden Project, in which prisoners and former inmates work on the jail's farms to raise produce for senior centers and soup kitchens. In 1996, the recidivism rate for offenders who volunteered for the project was 21 percent lower than the jail's overall rate.

Gardens for healing young hearts, bodies, minds? "Why not?" says Maria Gabaldo, president of the American Horticultural Therapy Association in Denver, Colorado. "When a child cares for a plant, they experience what it feels like to see the consequences of devoting their attention to a living thing. Then, hopefully, they'll understand how that can translate to other areas of their life."

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Durum Rebellion on the Northern Plains

Loring Wirbel

With Republican and Democratic members of Congress united in attempts to kick out price supports for family farmers, it takes a lot of guts to challenge Department of Agriculture regulations that carry tacit Congressional support. But that's what Montpelier, N.D. farmer Paul Wiley did when he spearheaded a move in late February to launch a class action suit against the federal government for changing the terms of crop insurance after posting the terms in the Federal Register.

The farmers that joined Wiley's suit were set to seek an injunction against the Department of Agriculture in a March 26 hearing in Fargo. The suit was filed March 11, and sought to prevent a change in a special addendum to federal crop insurance policy, which forced farmers to agree to a \$1.15 premium for durum wheat over spring wheat. The amount listed in the Federal Register had been \$1.92.

Plaintiffs had to get a special ruling from Judge Rodney Webb on March 11 to make sure they could sign the policy attachment without waiving their right to join the lawsuit. Wiley's efforts to raise money to help family farmers have gained nationwide attention, with money offers coming in from bankers, grain elevator managers, and crop insurance agents.

Wiley hardly fits the image of the wizened family farmer who has risked insolvency through several decades of crumbling price supports. Wiley is a young, spirited small farmer well-known as a small-zine publisher and music supporter under his Internet moniker, "Farmer P." But the fact that he wasn't directly managing a farm during the lean years of the 1980s doesn't change the fact that he is experiencing firsthand the shifting rules and underhandedness that farmers have to face from federal agencies. He says that his main goal now is not the money that will be lost in the changed insurance premiums, even though that can mean

please see "Wirbel" on page 7

Seed Terminator and Mega-Merger Threaten Food and Freedom

Geri Guidetti

There have been times in human history when the line between genius and insanity was so fine that it was barely perceptible. In the world of biotechnology and food, that line has just been obliterated. Announcements made over the past year suggest that an ingenious scientific achievement and subsequent, related business developments threaten to terminate the natural, God-given right and ability of people everywhere to freely grow food to feed themselves and others. Never before has man created such an insidiously dangerous, far-reaching and potentially "perfect" plan to control the livelihoods, food supply and even survival of all humans on the planet. Overstatement? Judge for yourself.

On March 3, 1998, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Delta and Pine Land Company, a Mississippi firm and the largest cotton seed company in the world, announced that they had jointly developed and received a patent (US patent number 5,723,765) on a new, agricultural biotechnology. Benignly titled, "Control of Plant Gene Expression," the new patent will permit its owners and licensees to create sterile seed by cleverly and selectively programming a plant's DNA to kill its own embryos. The patent applies to plants and seeds of all species. The result? If saved at harvest for future crops, the seed produced by these plants will not grow. Pea pods, tomatoes, peppers, heads of wheat and ears of corn will essentially become seed morgues. In one broad, brazen stroke of his hand, man will have irretrievably broken the plant-to-seed-to-plant-to-seed-cycle, THE cycle that supports most life on the planet. No seed, no food unless you buy more seed. This is obviously good for seed companies. As it turns out, it is also good for the US Department of Agriculture.

In a recent interview with RAFI, the Canada-based Rural Advancement Foundation International, US Department of Agriculture (USDA) spokesman, Willard Phelps, explained that the USDA wants this technology to be "widely licensed and made expeditiously available to many seed companies." The goal, he said, is "to increase the value of proprietary seed owned by US seed companies and to open up new markets in Second and Third World countries." The USDA and Delta & Pine Land Co. have applied for patents on the terminator technology in at least 78 countries!

Once the technology is commercialized, the USDA will earn royalties of about 5% of net sales. "I think it will be profitable for USDA," Phelps said. (Royalties? Profits? For a Department of the US Federal Government? What's wrong with this picture?)

The Terminator Technology was created to prevent farmers from saving non-hybrid, open-pollinated or genetically altered seed sold by seed companies. Open-pollinated varieties of crops like wheat and rice staples for most of the world's population are typical examples. The stated logic for Terminator Technology is simple, really. A seed company invests money to develop and produce new varieties of seed. It hopes to sell a lot of that seed to recoup monies spent on crop research and seed development, and then to realize a profit on their investment. Fair enough, it would seem, but there are BIG concerns around the world about how much profit, how much control many of these multinational seed companies actually seek. Many of their proprietary seeds are no more than genetically altered versions of older, reliable, conventionally bred strains that have been in the public domain for many, many years. Change a gene to give a seed resistance to some new strain of disease,

the logic goes, and the seed no longer belongs to the people to grow and save as they like, but to the seed company. In the past several years the world community has been outraged as some multinational seed companies have brazenly tried to claim ownership of whole species of food plants based on the logic that they had altered a gene in a member of that species and, hence, now owned its whole genome!

In a world of burgeoning population growth and, hence, demand for food, giant, multi-national seed companies hope to sell a lot of proprietary, genetically engineered seed. Food is a BIG business that will only get bigger, and they want farmers around the world to need to come back to them, year after year, to buy the seed and, in some cases, even the chemicals, to grow it. Plant patents, gene licensing agreements, intellectual property laws, investigations and lawsuits brought against farm families for infringing on a seed company's monopoly on seed varieties are some of the means now used to protect their interests.

The new Terminator Technology could render even these modern, legal measures of control obsolete, as it is potentially so powerful, so effective and so flawless in its applicability that its corporate owners and licensees will literally have complete biological control over the food crops in which it is applied. Seed companies have been working hard to prevent farmers around the world from saving their own seed from plants originally grown with seed purchased from these companies. They are also trying to find ways to encourage farmers around the world in the U.S., Europe and especially the huge market represented by farmers in South America, Mexico and Asia, to switch to genetically engineered, proprietary seed instead of relying on the time-old practice of saving their own locally produced and conventionally bred seed. If they can produce and offer their "improved" seed cheaply enough to convince even poorer, Second and Third World farmers to switch, they will have captured much of the global market. The Terminator will ensure that this market, these farmers and the communities and countries they feed, will be completely dependent on the company in order to continue to eat.

There is another potential dark side to the Terminator. Molecular biologists reviewing the technology are divided on whether or not there is a risk of the Terminator function escaping the genome of the crops into which it has been intentionally incorporated and moving into surrounding open-pollinated crops or wild, related plants in fields nearby. The means of this "infection" would be via pollen from Terminator-altered plants. Given Nature's incredible adaptability, and the fact that the technology has never been tested on a large scale, the possibility that the Terminator may spread to surrounding food crops or to the natural environment MUST be taken seriously. The gradual spread of sterility in seedling plants would result in a global catastrophe that could eventually wipe out higher life forms, including humans, from the planet.

According to USDA researchers, they have spent about \$190,000 over four years working on the joint project. (Yes, you and I supported this research.) For its share, the Delta & Pine Land Company has reportedly devoted \$275,000 of in-house expenses, plus an additional \$255,000. Combined, these dollars are a

mere drop in the bucket compared to the potential profitability of the technology to its owners. According to USDA's Willard Phelps, the Delta & Pine Land Co. retains the option to exclusively license the jointly-developed technology. In its March 3rd press release, the company claimed that the new technology has "the prospect of opening significant worldwide seed markets to the sale of transgenic technology for crops in which seed currently is saved and used in subsequent plantings." In a recent communique, RAFI states: "If the Terminator Technology is widely utilized, it will give the multinational seed and agrochemical industry an unprecedented and extremely dangerous capacity to control the world's food supply." That fear may be realized much sooner than anyone could have imagined.

At the time of the March 3 announcement of the US government-supported technology, it was common knowledge that multinational seed and pesticides giant, Monsanto, was a minor (8%) shareholder in the Delta & Pine Land Co. The two jointly have a cotton seed venture in China. On May 11th, a

mere nine weeks after the announcement of the Terminator Technology, Monsanto bought the Delta & Pine Land Co. and, with it, the complete control of the Terminator Technology. For an even bigger picture of the implications of this acquisition, here's a summary of some published information on Monsanto's current agricultural holdings and activities:

* The purchase of Delta & Pine now gives Monsanto an overwhelming 85% share of the US cotton seed market and a dominant global position in this crop.

* On May 11th, Monsanto also announced the take-over of Dekalb, the second largest maize (corn) company in the US.

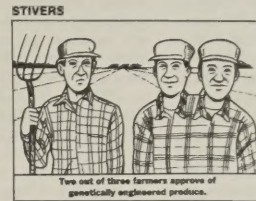
* In January of 1997, Monsanto acquired Holden's Foundation Seeds. A company spokesman said at the time that its goal was to get its bioengineered seed on at least half of the then 40 million acres that Monsanto had access to via its acquisitions. It is estimated that 25-35% of US corn acreage is planted with Holden's products. The Holden and Dekalb acquisitions make Monsanto the dominant player in the corn market.

* In November, Monsanto acquired Brazilian seed company, Sementes Agrocres. This acquisition gave Monsanto 30% of the Brazilian corn seed business. Brazilian farmers who have been breeding and saving their own seed for centuries are considered primary targets for terminator and apomictic (below) corn seed products.

* On January 20th, the USDA won another patent no. 5,710,367 covering "apomictic maize." This corn trait speeds hybrid seed production by allowing the plant to produce hybrid clones, lowering the price of hybrid seed. Third World farmers unable to afford more expensive hybrid seed could potentially buy these less expensive clones. Unlike other hybrids, apomictic corn can be regrown but its genetic uniformity (remember, clones) would make it more likely to lose its disease resistance more frequently, forcing farmers to buy seed more often. There are fears that Monsanto will obtain these license rights from the USDA. Monsanto's recent corn company acquisitions and, now, near monopoly in corn, make this a critical concern.

* A Washington connection, according to RAFI: "In the past two years, a number of high-ranking White House and USDA

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DIGGING ROOTS/PLANTING SEEDS

Rapid TRAC

Jack Majors

Rapid Transit Across Colorado (RapidTRAC) is an organization with a simple mission—to serve as a responsible advocate for an integrated commuter rail system in Colorado. Recognizing that this system can only be built in logical segments, RapidTRAC's first goal is the realization of a commuter rail (ComRail) line between Castle Rock and Denver. Denver's light rail Transit (LRT) line is now being built southward along Sante Fe Drive to Mineral Avenue, a short sixteen miles from Castle Rock, with an existing rail corridor between. With a ComRail station at Castle Rock, those living near this station and those of us who live further to the south should reach downtown Denver by this rail system and avoid the dreaded Denver Tech Center stretch of I-25.

Later on, we will seek the expansion of the ComRail line southward to the Tri-Lakes area, Colorado Springs and

Pueblo. Such a passenger system is well within the realm of possibility in the not too distant future, if supporters get organized.

RapidTRAC is getting off the ground. Non-profit Corporation papers have been filed. We expect to become a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization. Become a member! The annual minimum membership fee is only \$10 and will insure that you receive the Newsletter and are kept informed.

Second, volunteer to take on some small job that taps into your talents and interests. For example, one person is now developing our new web page. Another distributes flyers. An engineer will review studies for us. We need writers, speakers, and the those with other skills that any effective organization must have in order to do the job.

What can RapidTRAC do? Represent our area's interests at public input sessions on transportation. A few people can make a big difference at such meetings. We will make it a point to be at all meetings where we might have an

impact.

We will participate in and review studies to insure that the process considers rail alternatives fairly. For example, one recent study used an assumption that traffic along I-25 would grow only 2% annually, despite the average annual increase of 5.5% for the past 13 years. These kinds of assumptions need to be challenged since they can greatly impact rail ridership projections.

Inform the public about the progress of rail projects and how these plans or—lack of them—might affect us. Consider that right now commuter and rail alternatives are being considered for the Northern Front Range cities of Boulder, Longmont, Loveland, Fort Collins and Greeley. Why are there no such plans for the Southern Front Range? Because, prior to now, unlike our neighbors to the north, we have not had any group speaking out on behalf of rail. Their success suggests that we also need a voice in state transportation planning. Otherwise, the decisions will be made by those representing the highway and trucking

industries.

A vital grassroots organization needs to exist. Public and governmental agencies do not ignore organizations with a large membership base. The larger the organization the louder the voice.

A communication network needs to be created to keep the membership informed and the public aware. RapidTRAC will keep members updated with a Newsletter, e-mail and through its own web page. We will let you know who to call or write in order to get your opinions heard on matters that effect transportation. We will work to educate the public on the many advantages of the rail.

An initial meeting took place in Colorado Springs, drawing an interested crowd of about forty. Future information meetings are being scheduled in Tri-Lakes, Castle Rock, and again in Colorado Springs—probably in May. Please call or E-mail Jack Majors for dates or questions. 719-481-4256, e-mail: Rapidtrac@aol.com

Jack Majors is Lead Advocate for RapidTRAC.

Astroturf Groups: Will the real activists please stand up?

Mark Briscoe

Nineteen ninety-nine may well emerge as a watershed in our struggle to reduce the noxious pollution produced by gasoline powered automobiles. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is presently drafting regulations known as the Tier 2 rule, that will shape auto pollution standards well into the next century.

As EPA enters the rule making phase of the Tier 2 process, oil and auto industry interests are certainly gearing up for a prodigious fight against tough standards. While head-on, frontal assaults in the form of high-dollar lobbying and advertising campaigns will surely form the centerpiece of the special interests' drive to gut the rule, less obvious tactics are also likely.

If recent history provides any insight, we can expect low-key disinformation and phony grassroots operations to play a part as well. These "astroturf" groups, as they were originally dubbed by Sen. Lloyd Benson, were very active during the EPA's 1997 tightening of ozone and particulate matter National Air Quality Standards. More recently they chimed in during the Kyoto global warming debate.

Astroturf groups are funded and often created by industrial and big-business concerns. They frequently sell themselves as representing the interests of average citizens, even though several are headquartered in the offices of industry trade associations or massive public relations firms. Invariably, their goals are to discourage government regulation of business and industry, discredit true environmental groups and create confusion surrounding issues that reflect poorly on their corporate sponsors.

Astroturf groups typically employ any of four basic strategies: Creating phony grassroots drives; shifting responsibility for cleaning up or reducing pollution from corporate polluters to individual citizens; promoting the idea that environmental fears are based on "junk science" and fomenting economic fear by claiming that strict regulations will increase taxes, eliminate jobs, and hamper US competitiveness. Profiles of the largest astroturf groups follow.

The Air Quality Standard Coalition: The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) created AQSC expressly to oppose EPA's tightening of ozone and particulate matter (PM) standards in 1997 and houses the organization in its Washington DC headquarters

AQSC receives funding from the American Automobile Manufacturers Association, the American Petroleum Institute, Amoco, Chevron, Exxon, Mobil, Texaco, Ford, and General Motors among others. After a flurry of activity during the NAQS comment period, the group seems to be largely dormant for the moment. A call to AQSC was answered by a NAM staffer who required several minutes to transfer the call to an AQSC representative, who in turn referred the question on Tier 2 to the American Automobile Manufacturers Association. Despite this apparent dormancy, there is no reason to believe AQSC could not spring back to life to face a full scale Tier 2 battle.

Citizens for a Sound Economy: Billing itself as a "250,000-member grassroots organization which advocates free market solutions to public policy problems," Citizens for a Sound Economy accepts funding from General Motors, Amoco, Chevron, and Mobil, as well as the US branches of Honda, Hyundai, Nissan, and Toyota. Not surprisingly, the groups made a heavy pitch against increased ozone and PM standards. CSE based its opposition primarily on the "junk science" (which it dubbed "smoggy science") argument and ran radio advertisements entitled "EPA's New Air Quality Regulations Don't Help Asthmatic Children" and "EPA Won't Publish the Data to Support New Air Quality Regulations." Another advertisement said that tougher PM standards would harm farmers because "most microscopic particles...are dust kicked up during plowing or unpaved roads [sic]." The group has also run campaigns opposed to regulating greenhouse gas emission in general as well as the Kyoto Protocol in general.

American Council on Science and Health: ACSH describes itself as a "consumer education consortium concerned with the issues related to food, nutrition, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, lifestyles, the environment and health" (issues that also concern many of its big-business funders). The group boasts that it is much different from "so-called consumer-advocacy organizations that misrepresent science and distort health priorities." The group attacked EPA's PM standard with a combination of "junk science" arguments and economic scare tactics. "It is misleading to couch the debate in terms of big business versus public health," assured ACSH President Elizabeth Whelan. "Asthma and other respiratory diseases are serious problems

in the US. But not only will the proposed [PM and ozone] standards fail to address these problems, they may also—by creating economic disruption—actually worsen them by lowering living standards and reducing access to health care." A sentiment certainly shared by ACSH's corporate sponsors, which include Amoco, Chevron, Exxon, Mobil, Ford and General Motors.

Foundation for Clean Air Progress: While the groups mentioned above take the offensive, directly disputing the need for clean air regulations and putting forth their own dubious and misleading "research," the Foundation for Clean Air Progress takes a more subtle approach. FCAP claims to be "a nonpartisan organization that was formed in 1995 to provide public education and information about air quality progress." The group's message is that everything is hunky-dory. "What differentiates the foundation is the fact that we take a positive approach to discussing air quality," says the group's Web site. "We present the situation in the US from the perspective of the glass being half full, rather than half empty." FCAP says it has no legislative agenda, but the strong implication in the group's literature and on-line information is that no further clean air regulations are needed. In reality, FCAP attempts to obfuscate the clean air debate by representing government and independent calls for stricter regulations as pessimistic and reactionary.

Meanwhile, the group tries to reshape the opinions of a public that may be skeptical of its rose-tinted pronouncements. The "Air Quality I.Q. Test" on the FCAP Web page offers such hardball questions as, "Air quality was much better in the 'good ole days'" (False); "Gasoline-powered cars cause smog; to really get rid of it we need to get rid of cars" (False); "Trees help cause smog." (True); and "Automobile emissions are responsible for acid rain." (False). While we might scrutinize some of these manipulative and contrived Q&A on the grounds of logic or common sense, they are really not surprising when we consider the FCAP members include the American Petroleum Institute, The Petroleum Marketers Association of America, and the Service Station Dealers of America.

The second prong of FCAP's message centers on personal responsibility. The multi-billion dollar corporations that make up the oil and auto industries have done their part to reduce smog and other pollution, the group seems to be saying,

and now it's time for individuals to do their share. We need to carpool. We need to drive less. We need to tune up our cars. We need to keep our tires properly inflated. Sound advice, perhaps, until you consider the implicit other side of the coin: industry needs to do...nothing. Except perhaps carry out massive lobbying campaigns designed to ensure that government regulators and policy makers do nothing.

Other corporate sponsored organizations that could weigh in on the Tier 2 debate to watch for are: **Advancement of Sound Science Coalition**, **Annapolis Center**, **Citizens for the Environment Action Fund**, **Coalition for American Energy Security**, **Coalition for Vehicle Choice**, **People for the USA**, **Reason Foundation**.

While most transportation activists would spot these groups a mile away on a hazy summer day, they do make our jobs more difficult. Even if most people have never heard of FCAP or CSE, the groups' corporate-agenda-driven messages are out there. We need to refute the claims of these anti-environment groups with rational, fact-based arguments in letters to the editor, on talk radio programs, or in legitimate grassroots campaigns. For example, when the FCAP tell people that air quality in the US had improved over the last decades, we must point out that 32 states and Washington DC, exceeded ground-level ozone standards last summer and that some 117 million Americans live in areas with serious recurring smog problems. When anti-environment politicians like Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) cite data put out by such astroturf groups as the Reason Foundation, we must let people know that the group's views are tainted by the fact that it receives funds from Amoco, Chevron, Exxon, Ford and Texaco. The astroturfs force the true grassroots transportation activist to redouble outreach and education efforts, to ensure that policy makers and the public do not take bogus, corporate-sponsored arguments seriously, to the detriment of the air and our health.

Mark Briscoe is the editor of *Getting There: a Newsletter for the Transportation Activist*. It is a publication for the Campaign on Auto Pollution (CAP).

This article is reprinted from the Winter 1999 issue of *Getting There*. The contents of *Getting There* is also available on line at www.icta.org/campaigns/cap/index.htm.

Guidetti

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officials have left Washington for the allure of Monsanto's headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri."

* "In October 1997, Monsanto and Millennium Pharmaceuticals (another US-based genomics company) announced a 5 year collaborative agreement worth over US \$118 million, including the creation of a new Monsanto subsidiary with about 100 scientists to work exclusively with Millennium to use genomic technologies. The exclusive agreement is not limited to a single crop or geographic location, it covers all crop plants in all countries. Monsanto considers the new subsidiary 'an integral part of its life sciences strategy' and hopes to gain a competitive edge in the search for patentable and likely 'Terminator-able' crop genes."

* Monsanto has pioneered enforcement strategies for protection of its plant patents. Much of this pioneering has been centered on its genetically altered soybeans which have the ability to withstand spraying with the company's leading herbicide, Roundup. (Weeds and other native plants die, beans live.) In 1996 the company set a new precedent requiring farmers buying its genetically engineered "Roundup Ready Soybeans" to sign and adhere to the terms of its "1996 Roundup Ready Gene Agreement." Terms: The farmer must pay a \$5 per bag "technology fee"; the farmer must give Monsanto the right to inspect, monitor and test his/her fields for up to 3 years; the farmer must use only Monsanto's brand of the glyphosate herbicide it calls Roundup; the farmer must give up his/her right to save and replant the patented seed; the farmer must agree not to sell or otherwise supply the seed to "any other person or entity." The farmer must also agree, in writing, to pay Monsanto "...100 times the then applicable fee for the Roundup Ready gene, times the number of units of transferred seed, plus reasonable attorney's fees and expenses..." should he violate any portion of the agreement. The farmers' outcry against the stringent inspection and monitoring of their private property caused Monsanto to modify that part of the agreement in 1997.

The company has used a similar licensing agreement for its genetically engineered cotton and, according to a

spokeswoman, plans to introduce licensing agreements with all genetically engineered seeds Monsanto brings to market. These will include Roundup Ready canola (canola oil), corn, sugarbeets, etc. (Keep in mind that now Monsanto has Terminator Technology to license, as well. It is applicable to all food crops according to its primary inventor.)

Four days ago, the scope of the potential impact of the Terminator Technology on global agriculture broadened explosively with the announcement that American Home Products Corporation (AHP) had agreed to buy Monsanto Co. for \$33.9 billion in stock. "AHP," according to its press release, "is one of the world's largest research-based pharmaceutical and health care products companies....It is also a global leader in vaccines, biotechnology, agricultural products and animal health care." Reuters reports that the acquisition will create "a powerful pharmaceutical company with a massive presence in the growing market for genetically engineered agricultural products."

Actually, AHP is a family of companies including American Cyanamid, Cyamid Agricultural Products Group, Wyeth Ayerst, and others. It is the third largest in the US in herbicides, insecticides and fungicides but, with its acquisition of Monsanto, it is now estimated that the combined companies will become the largest agrochemical/life industries company in the world, beating Swiss global giant, Novartis. It does not take a giant mental leap to see the massive potential for the application and marketing of Monsanto's Roundup Ready seed and licensing agreements and the Terminator Technology to an increasing number of companies and food crops. If the Terminator technology is not globally banned, its eventual incorporation into all genetically engineered and open-pollinated, non-hybrid food crops is predictable.

As most of you are aware, I have often fretted in these pages about the vulnerabilities of our increasingly centralized, computer-based, bottom-line driven, large corporation-dominated food production, processing and distribution system. Extreme weather patterns, toxic waste-contaminated fertilizers, epidemic bacterial contamination of food and the year-2000 crash of computers responsible for keeping the whole, complex system running have been big concerns. I have warned you of the planned disappearance of non-hybrid, open-pollinated

seeds. Seeds that let you retain the means of growing your own food if you want or need to. Seeds that ensure protective biodiversity. Seeds that may provide personal food security in insecure times. Now the Terminator threatens even these.

Make no mistake about it's widespread global adoption of the newly patented Terminator Technology will ensure absolute dependence of farmers, and the people they feed, on multinational corporations for their seed and food. Dependence does not foster freedom. On the contrary, dependence fosters a loss of freedom. Dependence does not increase personal power, it diminishes it. When you are dependent, you relinquish control. History is full of examples of peoples and cultures who lost fundamental freedoms, who were controlled by their need for food. This shouldn't happen to Second and Third World farmers. It shouldn't happen in any of the 78 countries in which the patent has been applied for. It shouldn't happen here.

The Terminator Technology is brilliant science and arguably "good business", but it has crossed the line, the tenuous line between genius and insanity. It is a dangerous, bad idea that should be banned. Period.

Visit The Ark Institute's web site @ <http://www.arkinstitute.com> for archived Food and Grain Supply Updates.

To be placed on Geri Guidetti's free Food Supply Update email list, send an email with "list" in the subject box to: arkinst@concentric.net Mailing address: The Ark Institute, PO Box 142, Oxford, Ohio 45064

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Jesus dies

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Luttwak did a classic study, *The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire*, and President Carter's former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, in an important article in *Foreign Affairs*, "America's New Geostrategy," produced a strategic update on "America's assumption of the imperial role after World War II" ² His article is based on his involvement in a 1988 government sponsored study issuing in the document, *Discriminate Deterrence*, authored by Brzezinski, Kissinger, et al, and accepted unanimously by all participants. It was meant to be a guide for US weapons policy for "many years into the future — at least twenty." ³

Which brings us to the "crucifixions" of today. In order to maintain the US brand of Pax Romana we, "like the Romans, face the prospect not of decisive conflict, but of a permanent state of war, albeit limited. We like the Romans must actively protect an advanced society against a variety of threats." ⁴

The *Discriminate Deterrence* report advocates the first strike nuclear arsenal— "as potentially decisive instruments of discriminating violence" as well as low intensity conflict — "In the past we have sometimes seen these attacks as a succession of transient and isolated crises. We now have to think of them as a permanent addition to the menu of defense planning problems." ⁵ It explains the care and handling of "client states" ⁶ who, like Israel under the Herods, will do our work for us as well as the "Special Activity" ⁷ of supporting insurgents who meet our needs. And, of course, it mandates the budget to make all this happen.

The crucified? The direct victims— those whose suffering and death are the "prudent public notices that [total destruction] lay waiting behind the [ir] cross" as well as the victims of the priorities necessary to keep us in this state of war. All are deemed "necessary" for our national security, our way of life:

the millions of hungry, dying and dead children of Iraq; the tortured indigenous people of Chiapas; those dead bodies left in public places throughout our client states as "a warning"; the victims of landmines; the downwinders in the US West, the Pacific islands and in the Gulf who suffer and die of the effects of nuclear fall-out; the veterans of wars— some as young as eight years old—poisoned in body and soul by what they've experienced; the millions of indigent US citizens, old and young, whose nation—the richest in the world— cannot afford universal health care; the exploited and disposable laborers of the free market system; those judged misfits—different in nationality or race or orientation or politics—and so, disposable; the women and children who have become commodities in world trade; the thousands of political prisoners within the US and beyond who must not be allowed to challenge—even nonviolently—this "permanent state of war" or "America's empirical role;" the victims of environmental poisoning whose rights to clean air, pure water, natural food and safe medicine are overridden by the free market's "right" to profit; the victims of natural disasters triggered by the greedy exploitation of the earth and seas and outer space; the disappeared; and more...

1. James Douglass *The Nonviolent Coming of God*, (Maryknoll, New York, Orbis Books 1 993) p.8

2. Zbigniew Brzezinski, "America's New Geostrategy," *Foreign Affairs* (Spring 1988) p. 680

3. *Discriminate Deterrence, Report of the Commission on Integrated Long-term Strategy*, Fred Ikle and Albert Wohlstetter, co-chairmen (Washington G.P.O., January 1988) Members of the Commission were Anne L. Armstrong, Zbigniew Brzezinski, William P. Clark, W. Graham Clayton, Jr., Andrew J. Goodpastor, James L. Holloway III, Samuel P. Huntington, Henry A. Kissinger, Joshua Lederberg, Bernard A. Schriever, and John W. Vessey.

4. Edward N. Luttwak, *The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984) p.3

5. *Discriminate Deterrence*, p. 13-15

6. Luttwak, p. 24

7. *Discriminate Deterrence*, p. 16

Barbara Huber is a Sister of Charity of Cincinnati, Ohio

Wirbel

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the difference between solvency and bankruptcy for some farmers. Rather, the issue now is one of trust in the federal government.

In a telephone interview with Wiley, he said that the toughest problem in winning public support is to convince non-farmers that the family farmer is not seeking a handout. The insurance known as Crop Revenue Coverage is a basic element in helping farmers plan for constant wheat prices, particularly in an environment of US/Canadian price wars. Wiley said that as a 25 year-old farmer, he was one of the few young people that have not left North Dakota.

"I hate to say this, but this might be our last year. You cannot make a decent living on the family farm any more," Wiley said. He is representing several farmers in the law suit against the US government. They have also written to US Senators Kent Conrad and Byron Dorgan (North Dakota), insisting that the issue is not a lack of good farming practice, but a lack of good insurer practice.

"Where else could we see someone who wanted to change the rules of the game after publishing standards in the Federal Register?" Wiley asked.

Loring Wirbel is a member of the Editorial Board for Active for Justice.

The Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission is composed of people who, while looking to other traditions for inspiration and welcoming the participation and membership of all people, are grounded in the principles of justice and peace which are integral to the teachings of Jesus:

reverence for all creation
the power of nonviolence
solidarity with the poor and oppressed
the transforming qualities of relationship, reconciliation and community

Our task is to facilitate growth toward justice and peace in ourselves and in our sisters and brothers of the Pikes Peak community by providing alternative sources of information, facilitating formative experiences, and encouraging prophetic witness.

PPJPC Board of Directors: Beverly Ann John - president, Kelley Byron - secretary, Mary Bauer - treasurer, Jennifer Finn - director, Barbara Huber, Esther Kisamore, Molly Mulligan, Tom Noonan, Mary Sprunger-Froese, Denis Wermuth

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PEACE PLANNER

EVERY MONTH

* Nonviolent peace activists regularly keep vigil at various military bases in Colorado

- every Monday at Fort Carson
- the first and second Tuesday at Peterson AFB
- the fourth Tuesday at Schriver.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Peter, 471-3405 or Dee, 685-1984.

* Third Saturday of every month the Housing Coalition meets at Good News Church, 527 St. Vrain St. [east corner of St. Vrain and Wahsatch] from 1 to 3 pm.

* Every Monday at 6 pm Epimethian Press invites folks to First Congregational Church, N Tejon and St. Vrain, to fill prisoners' book requests.

* Every Thursday at noon until 1 pm there is a vigil at the US Post Office, Nevada and Colorado, to protest the US Sanctions of Iraq.

* For up to the minute information on Citizens for Peace in Space (CPIS) activities, call Bill, 389-0644.

N.B. CALENDAR ITEMS IN BOLD TYPE ARE THOSE PROGRAMS SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED BY PIKES PEAK JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION

APRIL

Good Friday April 2

Way of the Cross /Way of Justice
PPJP's annual event commemorating the crucifixion of Christ and His suffering in the present-day poor. The pil-grimage will begin at noon at Acacia Park, Bijou and N. Nevada, where it will also end. All are welcome. Those unable to walk the whole way because of time or physical constraints are welcome to join and/or leave the pilgrimage at any point along the way. Call 632-6189 for a map.

Saturday, April 3

Ronnie Dugger, founder of the Alliance for Democracy, will lead a forum: Corporate Domination Through the Mass Media. 7pm in Slocum Commons on the Colorado College Campus. For info call 632-2124.

Tuesday, April 6

David Lane, a criminal defense attorney who has defended many capital cases, and Jeannie Smith, DA will discuss capital punishment. 8pm in the Gates Common Hall at Colorado College.

Wednesday, April 7

A Social Ministries Open House
St Mary's Cathedral Ministries Committee hosts a open house from 5 to 9 pm at the Cathedral Center, 22 W Kiowa. A refreshment buffet and child care are provided.

Saturday, April 10

A Tribute to Dan and Sachio, Plowshares Activists
A visit to Minuteman Missile Silo N-7 in northeast Colorado. Cars will meet at PPJP at 8 am to car pool to AFSC office in Denver, 901 W. 14th Ave. to join a caravan. At the site we will take turns reading/quoting from Dan and Sachio's statements at the time of sentencing. Bring water and munchies. For more information call 662-6189.

Thursday thru Saturday, April 15-17

National Community Land Trust Conference
Presented by the Institute for Community Economics at the Sheraton Midway Hotel, St. Paul MN. For information and registration call Julie Orvis 413/746-8660.

Saturday, April 17

Stop the Sanctions Strategy meeting:
Following up on Mike Bremer's challenge, activists will meet to plan consciousness raising in this community, a project to send medicine and perhaps a delegate to Iraq, etc. Meet at 9 am at the Rectory, 845 N. Spruce St.

Saturday, April 17

A STOP the Sanctions table at the Chapel Hills mall at 2 pm

Sunday, April 18

Rose and Thorn
PPJP's workshop exploring non-violent responses to personal and global violence through study and experiential training, based on the principle of spiritual empowerment, at the PPJP office, 235 E. Fountain Blvd from 11 to 4. There are spaces for several more participants. Call 632-6189 or 632-3297 for registration.

Tuesday, April 20

Demonstration at Colorado University-Boulder protesting the ROTC presence on campus. Contact Alan Brooks for more information, 303/440-0193.

Thursday, April 22

Hague Appeal for Peace-Colorado sendoff. 21 representatives from Colorado will be joining 10,000 participants at the Hague, May 10-15 in the Netherlands. You and your group are invited to send delegates to the sendoff to tell the Colorado representatives your ideas for peace, disarmament and human rights. At Regis University in Denver, West 50th at Lowell Blvd, 7 pm in the cafeteria. To register or for more information call Byron Plumley at 303/623-3464.

Saturday April 24

A prayer vigil demonstration for Colorado Native American inmates spiritual rights. At the Denver Civic Center. 12 noon to 6pm. For more info call NATIVES Renee Still-Day, Pueblo, 719/547-8313 after 7pm.

Saturday April 24

Handy Dandy
Denver American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) hosts First Strike Theatre's production of Handy Dandy at First Mennonite Church, 430 West 9th Ave at 8pm. Tickets are \$10/\$8 in advance at AFSC office; \$5 low income. Proceeds benefit AFSC 303/623-3464.

Sunday, April 25

A Send-off to the Hague for Esther
There will be a fundraising party from 2 to 4 pm at Poor Richard's to make it possible for Esther Kisamore to represent us all at the 2nd International Peace Conference at the Hague. There will be First Strike Theatre, fun and food. 632-6189

Sunday thru Wednesday, April 25-28

Toward a Safer Millennium: Reducing the Dangers of the US Nuclear Weapons Complex
In Washington D.C.—Sunday will be lobbying training and strategizing; Monday thru Wednesday is scheduled with Administration, Senators and staff and presence at Committee meetings; Monday: Press Conference and networking; Tuesday: Award reception for those who have helped out cause. Register with Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, 202/833-4668; fax 202/234-9536; web-page: http://www.ananuclear.

Monday and Tuesday, April 26-27

Jose Ramos Horta, co-recipient of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize will speak at Metropolitan State College, Denver at 1pm in the Tivoli Student Union on Monday and at CSU, Fort Collins at 7:30pm in the Lory Student Center on Tuesday.

Weekend, April 30 thru May 2

Faithful Resistance
A strategy conference for Prison Activists in the religious community at Franklinton Center, Enfield, North Carolina. Leadership provided by Dennis Banks, Yvonne Delk and Jose Lopez. For information and registration: Interreligious Task Force on Criminal Justice, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115; 216/736-3280; fax: 216/736-3263; e-mail: nitfjc.aol.com.

Friday April 30 thru Saturday May 8

Mexico Solidarity Trip
Arrive in Mexico City for the May 1st International Workers Day with the Authentic Worker Front. Then travel on to Chiapas. For more information and an application, contact Mexico Solidarity Network, 4834 N. Springfield, Chicago, IL 60625. 773/583-7728.

MAY

Friday thru Monday May 7-10

"Love Your Mother" 1999 Gathering. Spring Healing Global Wounds Event at the Nevada Test Site. Gather to celebrate the unique and powerful gifts women bring, to honor women in struggle for lands and rights, to honor and heal the

Earth Mother, to form alliances and strategies and to occupy the western Shoshone Lands stolen for the Test Site. For more information and registration: Healing Global Wounds, PO Box 3518, Freedom, CA 95019-3518, 831/661-0445; e-mail hgw@scruznet.com.

Tuesday thru Saturday, May 11-15

The Second International Hague Appeal for Peace Conference
To join with the Colorado delegation contact Bob Kinsey with the Colorado Coalition for the Prevention of Nuclear War at 303/425-0348. And don't miss the party to send off Esther Kisamore as the delegate from the Bijou Community, CPIS, and PPJP! See the April 25 entry.

Saturday May 15

Colorado NOW Conference "Women of Courage" with luncheon keynote speaker Mary Lou Makepeace, first woman mayor of Colorado Springs. 10am-5pm at the Hillside Community Center. 924 S. Institute in Colorado Springs. Sliding Scale and Scholarships available. Call 303/830-2795 for more information.

Protest list

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Secretary of State Madeleine Korbelt Albright
2201 "C" Street NW
Washington DC 20520
phone: 202/647-9640

Iraqi Desk NEA/NGA Rm. 4515
Washington DC 20520
phone: 202/647-5692

Capitol Switchboard
202 224 3121

U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Washington DC 20510
R: 202/224-4651 fax: 202/224-0836
D: 202/224-3953 fax: 202/224-5011

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on International Relations
Washington DC 20515
R: 202/225-5021 fax: 202/225-2035
D: 202/225-6735 fax: 202/226-3581

A new look, with a little help from our friends

Barbara Huber

Slowly as 1999 has unfolded, a "new look" has transformed our newspaper. With this April issue we unveil the crowning touch: a masthead designed by a new friend, Alex Scribbins.

Our layout artist, Deb Tudor suggested moving the page numbers and dates to the top of the pages. How much easier it is to find things! It was over ice cream at a table at Josh n' John's that poet, artist and editor Sally Hegarty suggested four columns instead of three. How much more space we've found! It was a Christmas brunch that was the occasion for being introduced to the graphic artist, Alex Scribbins and for introducing him to *Active for Justice*.

So now we have it! Let's have a round of grateful applause for Deb, Sally and Alex!

Barbara Huber is editor of *Active for Justice*

SUPPORT THE COMMISSION

Are you one of the many who pick up *Active for Justice* at your favorite restaurant or book store or church? Now is the time to come out of the closet and subscribe!

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